श्री बलराम जाखड़ : आप करने में सक्षम बनिए, आप करिए, कौन रोकेगा, । मैं तो कृषि को उद्योग-आधारित बनाना चाहता हूं । हम अपनी कृषि को जब तक उद्योग-आधारित नहीं बनाएंगे, तो एक-एक, दो-दो एकड़ में आप समृद्धि नहीं ला सकते हैं । तीन प्रतिशत लोग बाहर खेती करते हैं या सत्तर प्रतिशत करते हैं, जमीन रबड़ तो है नहीं जो बढ़ जाएगी । जमीन तो उतनी ही है, भगवान ने एक ही बार बनाई है सारे यूनिवर्स में.....

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : नहीं जमीन...

श्री सभापति : वह आपके ही प्रश्न का समाधान दे रहे हैं ।

श्री बलराम जाखड़ : मेरी बात तो सुनिए । उसके साथ संबंधित है, मैं कृषि की बात कर रहा हूं कि अगर हम कृषि को उद्योगों के आधार पर परिवर्तित नहीं करेंगे तो कैसे हम समृद्धि लाएंगे ? इसलिए मैं कह रहा हूं कि आप भी बनाएं, अपनों को प्रोत्साहन दीजिए और मैं भी चाहता हूं, सभापति महोदय, कि हम अपनों को बढ़ावा दें और कोआपरेटिव सैक्टर में, गांवों में कृषि पर आधारित उद्योग लगें जिसमें फलों का उत्पादन हो, उनमें प्रोसेसिंग हो, एक्सपोर्ट हो और उसी हिसाब से अच्छी फसलें, जो कि ज्यादा पैसा उसको दे सकती है, उन पर विचार करके हम उनको समृद्धशाली बनाना चाहते हैं । बीज जो बनाना है, वह हमारे साइन्टिस्ट्स के मार्फत बनवाना है और साइन्टिस्ट्स ने जो अन्वेशन करना है, उनके आधार पर आज तक देश रहा है और आगे भी रहेगा । अगर कुछ अच्छा होगा तो दोनों हाथों से ताली बजेगी । हमें कुछ फायदा होगा तो हम उनसे ले लेंगे, उनको कुछ फायदा होगा तो हमसे ले लेंगे । एक तरफ फायदे वाली बात मैं नहीं मानने वाला ।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, लघु-सीमान्त किसानों के बारे में...

श्री बलराम जाखड़ : लघु-सीमान्त किसानों का पहले भी ध्यान रख चुके हैं, उनका पैसा हमने लगाया नहीं था, जितना पैसा था—405 करोड़ रुपए, वह पहले ही हमने उनके लिए छोड़ दिया था ।

*[*The questioner (Shri Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare and Shri Bekal Utsahi) were absent. For answer vide col. 34-35 infra*]

नया लघु इस्पात निर्माण संयंत्र

†*25. **सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :**
श्री रणजीत सिंह :

क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने जुलाई, 1991 में लघु इस्पात निर्माण संयंत्र स्थापित करने के लिए कोई दिशा निर्देश घोषित किए थे;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तब से लेकर कितनी लघु इकाइयों ने अपने आवेदन पत्र सरकार को प्रस्तुत किए हैं;

(ग) क्या इन आवेदन पत्रों को स्वीकृति दे दी गयी है, और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इन इकाइयों को कहां-कहां लगाने का प्रस्ताव है और उनमें से प्रत्येक की निर्माण क्षमता क्या होगी और उनमें कब तक उत्पादन आरम्भ होने की संभावना है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The Government did not announce any guidelines for setting up of ministeel manufacturing plants in July, 1991. However, the new Industrial Policy was announced in July, 1991 and this exempts the iron and steel industry (including ministeel plants) from the provisions of compulsory licensing subject to locational restrictions. Entrepreneurs have to only file an Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum with the Government.

(b) No application for industrial licence for setting up a mini steel plant

† सभा में यह प्रश्न सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा द्वारा पूछा गया ।

has been received after announcement of the new Industrial Policy.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: Sir, the problem really is that there are a large number of mini steel plants which are in poor health. An organisation was set up for them to be able to procure scrap material from abroad. Therefore, they could buy that scrap and work. But this was slashed in July last year. Now these plants are finding it extremely difficult to survive. This question was raised earlier also but nothing was done. May I know from the Minister whether the Ministry of Steel has given some thought to this problem? Are they going to do something for the mini steel plants or are they going to let them die?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I fully agree with the hon. Member that there are serious difficulties in the mini steel plants. The total requirement of scrap material in the country is 7 million tonnes and the domestic availability is 3 million tonnes, the production of sponge is also 1 million tonne at the moment. Hence there is a gap of 3 million tonnes.

In the budget Rs. 450 crores was allocated to import scrap material from outside. Because of the resource crunch in foreign exchange, it has been reduced to 25 per cent. We have been given only Rs. 54 crores which means we could import only 1 lakh tonnes.

But I am happy to inform the hon. Member only yesterday I had an informal discussion with the hon. Finance Minister about this matter. He has assured me that in view of the changed position of the foreign exchange resources, very soon he would take a lenient view and some relaxation and some release both in the tax structure as well as in the allocation of foreign exchange will be there. There by we will be able to help more. Apart from that the Government is also giving emphasis on the production of sponge iron which is targeted at 5 million tonnes by 1994-95. Some plants are coming up in the next year but at present there is a crisis. We as the concerned Ministry took up the matter with the Finance Ministry continuously but I confess that I failed to get the things move. Yesterday I was successful to a certain extent and the results can be seen soon.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: My second supplementary relates to the MSTC role. With the reduced role of MSTC, I believe, it has been losing money. May I know from the Minister what will be the role of MSTC in future so far as procurement of scrap is concerned? Do you really want MSTC to procure it or are you going to allow mini steel plants to buy the scrap on their own and bring it here?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: MSTC is supposed to import 2 million tonnes of scrap. They are also concerned with the production and procurement of this scrap within this country. As he rightly said there is a thinking both in the Government as well as in the industry whether they should continue with this job or not. We have still not decided on it; neither are we thinking of closing it down at the moment. But in future, the Government may review it if the situation changes. But at the moment, the MSTC will be there. And it is not a losing concern. It is earning profits.

MR. CHAIRMAN: His question is whether you will permit the mini steel plant owners to import on their own by the foreign exchange they earn.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Even now they are allowed to bring in on their own against Exim permits. This has been allowed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They are permitted. Your question is answered.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: First you have to pay to buy Exim permits.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How will they buy from outside otherwise? Foreign exchange is needed. He says he has no objection if they are able to import. (*Interruptions*). The MSTC will not come in the way. The Minister says he will permit them to import.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the bright steel industry is in the doldrums. Thanks to an acute shortage of the basic raw material, mild steel, the capacity utilisation in the industry has plummeted to a mere fifteen per cent. As against a rated capacity of over ten million tonnes, the actual production is hardly 1.5 million tonnes. The Government is not giving licences to new mini steel plants. What will be the total production capacity of mini steel plants and what new steps have been taken by the Government to make raw material available from the Metal Scrap Trading Corporation to meet the full and total production capacity in the present situation? If we fail to achieve the total capacity, then the cost of production will go up and the number of sick industries will increase as already 170 industries are on the verge of closure for non-availabilty of the material.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: What the hon. Member has said is not the real picture. As I said in my answer, out of the requirement of seven million tonnes, three plus one, four million tonnes, of scrap is available in the market. So, there is a crisis, but not a total crisis.

The second question the hon Member has raised is how the Government is trying to meet the demand in the market. Between the present demand and supply of steel, there is a gap of two million tonnes. That is the present situation in the country. We expect that by 2000 A.D. it will go up to five to seven million tonnes. And hence the Government has decided not to have new public sector undertakings. Only Modernisation and upgradation of the existing public sector undertakings will be there. Delicensing has been done. We are expecting that private parties will come in the field so that by 2000 A.D. thirty million tonnes capacity will be available within the country. Now we are happy that there are more than 100 applications which have come to the Industry Ministry for getting the necessary help from the Government regarding the establishment of new steel plants. Entrepreneurs have come forward.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How many applications have come?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: More than 100.

MR. CHAIRMAN: For composite steel plant?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: For mini steel plants about which he has asked questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just now you said. "No application for industrial licence for setting up a mini steel plant has been received after announcement of the new Industrial Policy."

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: No application has been received for obtaining licence. But information has to be given to the Industry Ministry in order to see that there are no locational hazards.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, 100 odd applications are still pending with you.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: In fact 115 applications have come. I can give you the break-up. The

shortage will be covered. We, as the Ministry, are also making some efforts so that iron ore may be made available to the new steel plants. Also, the Coal Ministry is taking steps to see that coal is made available. So efforts are there to cover up the gap.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, liberalisation and shift towards market economy would benefit the steel industry the maximum in my opinion if I have known a little of this industry. Sir, it is heartening to hear that there is going to be some liberalisation in the import of scrap. Otherwise, the mini-steel plants are absolutely in a very very bad shape.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has accepted it.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, I want to ask him whether or not he and his Ministry accept that the real malaise and maladministration in the entire steel industry is on account of the price control. Is the Ministry thinking of lifting the price control because the JPC's working and determining a price and at that price level, the public sector steel plants still making losses and Tatas making billions and billions of rupees, is just understandable—understandable in the sense that the productivity of one is very high and the productivity of the other is very low. But I am not on that question. Why not we get rid of the price control in the steel industry?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I need your protection to answer this question. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has asked the whole question. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Sir, the Minister is seeking protection from the Chair. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, the Steel Minister wants your protection from the former Steel Minister.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, if I answer in the affirmative, it will affect the market. If I answer in the negative, it will again affect the market. So, I need not answer all that I have heard. What I can say is that I will take his views into consideration in due course of time.

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Sir, the industrialists in our country are facing great shortage of pig-iron. Either they are starving or they are compelled to buy pig-iron in the black market. Will the Minister consider setting-up steel plants just to produce pig iron or to allow them to import pig-iron for their own consumption?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, import of pig-iron is allowed. Apart from that, according to our Industrial Policy, in 1986, pig-iron industry delicensing was done and there are certain pig-iron factories that are coming up. One of them will be coming up in Goa. I think on the 1st January, they are starting it. It is a fact that pig-iron shortage is there but we are happy that during this quarter, our production has gone up by 50,000 tonnes. We are aware of this difficulty and one of the items about which the Finance Ministry is also aware, is the import of pig-iron. That is already there. But relaxation in the import duty will also be coming, as I said, very soon.

सतलुज यमुना सम्पर्क नहर का कार्य पूरा किया जाना

*26. श्री रणजीत सिंह :
डा० जितेन्द्र कुमार जैन :

क्या जल संसाधन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार ने पंजाब में सतलुज-यमुना सम्पर्क

†सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री रणजीत सिंह द्वारा पूछा गया ।